

Casing type	Casing requirements	Cementing requirements
(f) Liners .....	If you use a liner as conductor or surface casing, you must set the top of the liner at least 200 feet above the previous casing/liner shoe. If you use a liner as an intermediate string below a surface string or production casing below an intermediate string, you must set the top of the liner at least 100 feet above the previous casing shoe..	Same as cementing requirements for specific casing types. For example, a liner used as intermediate casing must be cemented according to the cementing requirements for intermediate casing.

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003]

**§ 250.422 When may I resume drilling after cementing?**

(a) After cementing surface, intermediate, or production casing (or liners), you may resume drilling after the cement has been held under pressure for 12 hours. For conductor casing, you may resume drilling after the cement has been held under pressure for 8 hours. One acceptable method of holding cement under pressure is to use float valves to hold the cement in place.

(b) If you plan to nipple down your diverter or BOP stack during the 8- or 12-hour waiting time, you must determine, before nipping down, when it will be safe to do so. You must base your determination on a knowledge of formation conditions, cement composition, effects of nipping down, presence of potential drilling hazards, well conditions during drilling, cementing, and post cementing, as well as past experience.

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003]

**§ 250.423 What are the requirements for pressure testing casing?**

(a) The table in this section describes the minimum test pressures for each string of casing. You may not resume drilling or other down-hole operations until you obtain a satisfactory pressure test. If the pressure declines more than 10 percent in a 30-minute test, or if there is another indication of a leak, you must re-cement, repair the casing, or run additional casing to provide a proper seal. The District Manager may approve or require other casing test pressures.

Casing type	Minimum test pressure
(1) Drive or Structural .....	Not required.
(2) Conductor .....	200 psi.

Casing type	Minimum test pressure
(3) Surface, Intermediate, and Production.	70 percent of its minimum internal yield.

(b) You must ensure proper installation of casing or liner in the subsea wellhead or liner hanger.

(1) You must ensure that the latching mechanisms or lock down mechanisms are engaged upon installation of each casing string or liner.

(2) You must perform a pressure test on the casing seal assembly to ensure proper installation of casing or liner. You must perform this test for the intermediate and production casing strings or liner.

(3) You must submit for approval with your APD, test procedures and criteria for a successful test.

(4) You must document all your test results and make them available to BOEMRE upon request.

(c) You must perform a negative pressure test on all wells to ensure proper casing installation. You must perform this test for the intermediate and production casing strings.

(1) You must submit for approval with your APD, test procedures and criteria for a successful test.

(2) You must document all your test results and make them available to BOEMRE upon request.

[75 FR 63373, Oct. 14, 2010]

**§ 250.424 What are the requirements for prolonged drilling operations?**

If wellbore operations continue for more than 30 days within a casing string run to the surface:

(a) You must stop drilling operations as soon as practicable, and evaluate the effects of the prolonged operations on continued drilling operations and

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the life of the well. At a minimum, you must:

(1) Caliper or pressure test the casing; and

(2) Report the results of your evaluation to the District Manager and obtain approval of those results before resuming operations.

(b) If casing integrity has deteriorated to a level below minimum safety factors, you must:

(1) Repair the casing or run another casing string; and

(2) Obtain approval from the District Manager before you begin repairs.

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003]

## § 250.425 What are the requirements for pressure testing liners?

(a) You must test each drilling liner (and liner-lap) to a pressure at least equal to the anticipated pressure to which the liner will be subjected during the formation pressure-integrity test below that liner shoe, or subsequent liner shoes if set. The District Manager may approve or require other liner test pressures.

(b) You must test each production liner (and liner-lap) to a minimum of 500 psi above the formation fracture pressure at the casing shoe into which the liner is lapped.

(c) You may not resume drilling or other down-hole operations until you obtain a satisfactory pressure test. If the pressure declines more than 10 percent in a 30-minute test or if there is another indication of a leak, you must re-cement, repair the liner, or run additional casing/liner to provide a proper seal.

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003]

## § 250.426 What are the recordkeeping requirements for casing and liner pressure tests?

You must record the time, date, and results of each pressure test in the driller's report maintained under

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standard industry practice. In addition, you must record each test on a pressure chart and have your onsite representative sign and date the test as being correct.

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003]

## § 250.427 What are the requirements for pressure integrity tests?

You must conduct a pressure integrity test below the surface casing or liner and all intermediate casings or liners. The District Manager may require you to run a pressure-integrity test at the conductor casing shoe if warranted by local geologic conditions or the planned casing setting depth. You must conduct each pressure integrity test after drilling at least 10 feet but no more than 50 feet of new hole below the casing shoe. You must test to either the formation leak-off pressure or to an equivalent drilling fluid weight if identified in an approved APD.

(a) You must use the pressure integrity test and related hole-behavior observations, such as pore-pressure test results, gas-cut drilling fluid, and well kicks to adjust the drilling fluid program and the setting depth of the next casing string. You must record all test results and hole-behavior observations made during the course of drilling related to formation integrity and pore pressure in the driller's report.

(b) While drilling, you must maintain the safe drilling margin identified in the approved APD. When you cannot maintain this safe margin, you must suspend drilling operations and remedy the situation.

[68 FR 8423, Feb. 20, 2003]

## § 250.428 What must I do in certain cementing and casing situations?

The table in this section describes actions that lessees must take when certain situations occur during casing and cementing activities.

If you encounter the following situation:	Then you must . . .
(a) Have unexpected formation pressures or conditions that warrant revising your casing design.	Submit a revised casing program to the District Manager for approval.